

# THE DESOTO COUNTY NEWS.

VOLUME XXI.

ARCADIA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1916.

NUMBER 8.

The News is the Official Paper of the Board of Public Instruction of DeSoto County, also Publishes All the County Commissioners Reports and Proceeding

## RAILROAD OFFICIALS VISIT VENUS PALMDALE AND MOORE HAVEN

AND GIVE OUT THE GLAD NEWS THAT THE NEW ROAD WILL SOON REACH THESE PLACES. IT IS CONFIDENTLY EXPECTED THAT THIS GREAT EASTERN SECTION OF DESOTO COUNTY WILL GROW BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS. IN FACT, IS ALREADY DOING SO.

Officials and engineers in charge of the construction work on the Atlantic Coast Line extension from Sebring to Immokalee, arrived in Palmdale Monday to look over the preliminary work done. They stated that the gang laying the steel will be in Venus by the first of January, and the first train may be in Palmdale by the first of May.

After crossing Fishcreek Creek at Palmdale, a branch line will be run to Moore Haven, thus making Palmdale the junction.

Mr. W. W. Marquis, of Kansas City, Mo., president of the Palmdale Land Company, who arrived here Saturday, has just delivered deeds for the right of way over the company's lands from Venus to Palmdale, and also for land at Palmdale for a depot, warehouses, sidings, etc., Mr.

Marquis says that many new settlers who have bought land from his company will be coming in this winter. Some of them are arriving every week now, and much activity is shown by the old settlers in preparing land for planting spring crops. Mr. Marquis is negotiating with different parties about the location of electric and ice plants, cannery factory, lumber yard, etc., and is having a large force of men at work improving the streets.

As some of the finest land in DeSoto county for the growing of all kinds of truck crops is to be found in the Fishcreek valley between Venus and Palmdale, and it is in the arid well district, as is proved by the fine flowing well in front of the Palmdale Hotel. It is to be expected that this section of the county will build up very rapidly.

## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE OF COMMERCIAL CLUB MAKES

Preparations for the Entertainment of the Seven Hundred Teachers Who Will Attend the State Teachers' Association in This City Christmas Week.

The Entertainment Committee of the Commercial Club met yesterday afternoon to formulate plans of entertaining the seven hundred delegates that will be here in attendance upon the State Educational Association that convenes in Arcadia December 27th.

After appointing the following two committees it was decided to adjourn to meet again Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock so that the ladies could meet with the committee.

On Automobiles: W. E. Dunwoody, chairman, R. G. Tonkins, E. V. Nabell, Charles Green, R. F. Lewis, S. Rehn, C. D. Borling, H. G. Gates, E. T. Smith, W. I. Polk, J. G. King, T. B. King, J. S. Floyd and D. L. Smith.

On Fruit: Rev. F. A. Shore, chairman, J. M. York, J. H. Jones, C. C. Carlton, Jr., R. E. Herndon, D. H. Scott, F. L. Carr, W. G. Welles, F. B. Smith and W. J. Williamson.

A unique feature of the convention will be that at a convenient place at the high school building, oranges, grape fruit and tangerines will be served to the delegates each day during the convention. Rev. Shore, with his committee, will see that sufficient fruit is provided for the occasion.

## UNBONDED PARTS OF DISTRICT NUMBER TWO

Defeat the Special Tax Measure for Road Building by Overwhelming Majorities. Two Precincts Do Not Show a Single Vote in Favor of the Plan.

The result of the Special Tax election for road and bridge building purposes in part of district No. 2 yesterday resulted as follows:

	Against.	For.
Limestone	19	0
Lily	15	3
Pine Level	14	0
Owens	23	2

It therefore seems that the people of the unbonded portions of DeSoto county are unqualifiedly against the Special Tax method of building roads. The matter will now be brought before the people in these districts, as in the Arcadia district, at the very earliest possible time as to whether the people prefer bonding to driving in the sand. Some of these districts are unqualifiedly in favor of good roads, and this vote therefore only indicates that they will build only through a bonding system.

It is bad that the matter should be delayed, but it is believed that this expression of the will of the people will have a wholesome effect and that as soon as the opportunity presents itself the people will avail themselves of the only plan by which permanent road building may be done and the taxes not be greatly increased, as can be done only by a reasonable bond issue.

## THE SPECIAL TAX MEASURE FOR BUILDING GOOD ROADS DEFEATED

IN THE ARCADIA DISTRICT BY A VOTE OF 181 TO 162. NOT YET KNOWN AS TO WHAT STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TOWARDS HAVING ROADS BUILT AND REPAIRED. THE PROBABILITY IS THAT THE NEXT LEGISLATURE WILL BE ASKED TO MODIFY THE PRESENT BONDING LAW.

The vote yesterday on the Special Tax proposition for the purpose of building roads and bridges in the Arcadia district, stood 181 against the measure and 162 for it, with the Lake Sterns voting precinct yet to hear from. If an election was held at this point it will probably increase the majority against the Special Tax.

The vote in the various precincts stood as follows:

	Against.	For.
Arcadia	139	98
Gardner	20	7
Brownville	20	12
Nocatee	2	45

Totals

181	162
-----	-----

The vote is by no means an expression of the people as to being for or against the building of good roads, but merely indicates that the majority do not want a Special Tax levy for this purpose. It is understood that a goodly number of the voters who favor bonds voted "yes" on this proposition, because they want no further delay in making improvements, and would therefore prefer a Special Tax to the delay.

It is not yet known just what steps

will be taken in order to take care of the road building question. There is scarcely a doubt that a bond issue would carry by a large majority, but under the statute another election can not be held for a period of one year.

It is probable that the citizens will get behind a proposition to ask the next Florida legislature to modify the present bonding law, and if this can be done the matter of bonding for good roads will be taken up under this act at the very earliest opportunity. The citizens generally look upon this as the only practicable way by which an adequate system of roads may be built. It is argued, and very conclusively so, that under a bonding system good roads can be built without a necessary increase in the tax rate, or at least with only a very small increase, and that the future citizens will help to pay this tax levied to make improvements that they will enjoy. This, they should do, and it is sincerely hoped that since the people have turned down the Special Tax proposition, that now all forces will work to the end to be accomplished in the one only other way provided, the bonding system.

## THEODORE ROOSEVELT WILL HUNT DEVILFISH

The Colonel Will Join Russell J. Coles, of Danville, Virginia, in a Hunting Trip Next March. The Crew Will Sail From Punta Gorda, and Colonel Roosevelt Will Finance the Expedition, Though the Fruits of It Will Go to the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Danville, Va., Dec. 14.—Theodore Roosevelt has forsaken his game hunting for devilfish hunting for the time being, has canceled his proposed trip to Polynesia and the South Seas, and will join Russell J. Coles, of Danville, in a hunting trip next March, according to information brought here by Mr. Coles, who is just back from Oyster Bay.

The colonel has definitely arranged, says Mr. Coles, to become one member of his crew of five who will sail from Punta Gorda in a power sleep next March in search of this strange marine monster, on which Mr. Coles is an authority.

Colonel Roosevelt will finance the expedition, but the fruits of it will go to the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Mr. Coles is a brother of County Treasurer T. J. Coles, and is a tobacco leaf dealer here.

## ANOTHER BIG REAL ESTATE DEAL PUT OVER BY R. M. LOCK

Of This City. Whereby the Isle of Dreams and Other DeSoto County Property is Traded for Valuable Tampa Property. Mr. Whittemore, of Tampa, Expects to Erect a Modern Tourist Hotel in the Near Future on the Isle of Dreams.

Mr. R. M. Lock has just returned from Tampa, where he spent the past week. While there Mr. Lock closed up a deal, whereby he trades the well known Isle of Dreams and other DeSoto county lands to Mr. G. H. Whittemore, of Tampa. The property received in exchange consists of a handsome Bay Shore residence known as the "Grand View," a residence in Hyde Park, and one on Tampa Heights, also several lots. The amount of property involved is \$30,000.

Mr. Whittemore will develop the island in the near future. He is expecting to erect a modern tourist hotel and resort there.

The Isle of Dreams is situated on Lemon Bay, near Grove City, and is one of the most beautiful islands on that coast, being an ideal location for the purpose for which Mr. Whittemore expects to use it. The island was purchased by Mr. Lock and Mr. Parker several years ago.

### CIRCUIT COURT.

Garland Murrahee, who was arrested some time ago at Punta Gorda for grand larceny, was convicted in this term of court and sentenced by Judge Whitney to two years in the state prison.

Some two or three months ago Murrahee was caught while stealing a pocket book in Punta Gorda. He was arrested and brought here and bound over until circuit court convened. He was released on bail and yesterday when he was summoned to appear before the court was given the above named sentence.

### Very Ill—

Mr. G. M. Allen, one of Arcadia's oldest and most highly respected citizens, is quite ill at his home on North Polk avenue. At his extreme age there seems to be little hope of his recovery.

### tery of your association.

"The beauties of Palm Beach and West Palm Beach are world famous, and yet only a few of the teachers of our state have ever seen them. The folder we are sending merely suggests the charming scenery and perfect climate. Opportunities for entertainment are almost innumerable—boating, surf bathing and automobile driving over hundreds of miles of perfect roads.

"We have fifteen regular hotels and many regular boarding houses. Our homes and our hearts will be open to you.

"West Palm Beach wants you in 1917."

## DE SOTO COUNTY GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT

COMMENDS THE PASSAGE OF THE STATE PLANT LAW PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF 1915, AND URGES THE CITIZENS TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THIS ACT, DEPRECATES THE PRACTICE OF DUMPING DECAYED FRUIT ALONG THE ROADWAYS, COMMENDS THE ACTION OF THE DESOTO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND CIRCUIT CLERK IN HAVING AN EXPERT ACCOUNTANT FOR HIS FULL TIME IN PROPERLY KEEPING AND AUDITING THE ACCOUNTS.

To the Honorable F. A. Whitney, Judge.

We, the grand jury for the fall term of the circuit court, DeSoto county, 1916, in keeping with custom, submit to you for record and publication, the final presentment.

We have examined 176 witnesses in the consideration of 75 cases, and have returned indictments in all in which in our judgment there was proof of violation of criminal law sufficient to justify the presentation of the matters to a petit jury. We regret to note an inclination to use the offices of the grand jury for personal purposes and an aid to the enforcement of civil rights to which parties think themselves entitled or in which they believe themselves to have been injured.

Our attention has been called particularly to the provisions and the usefulness of the enforcement of the state plant law, same being chapter 63-5, acts of the legislature, 1915. This act gives the rules and regulations adopted by the state plant board the force and effect of law. We urge that our citizens and especially those engaged in the nursery and citrus fruit business, obtain a copy of this act and of the rules and regulations adopted by virtue of its provisions, and that they familiarize themselves therewith, and that they follow them scrupulously. We believe a proper enforcement of the act and the rules and regulations will do much toward increasing the value to grove property and eradication of pests and diseases affecting plant life.

Complaints have been registered with us regarding the careless dumping of culls and decayed fruit along public thoroughfares in or near towns and cities and about packing houses. This, we find, tends to promote disease as well as discomfort, and in a number of instances has caused the hogs of the country citizens to accumulate along the roads and in or near the towns, making it difficult for such persons to keep in touch with their property. We urge that all packing house people engaged in shipping of fruit take more care regarding the disposition of their re-

fuse fruit, and recommend to the state health officers in the county and different towns within the county that such action be taken as shall be proper under health board regulations to correct this trouble in so far as it affects health.

We regret to find that additions and improvements which former grand juries have recommended to be made to the jail have not been made. We especially urge the commissioners to build an addition to the women's department, so that white women and colored women may be separated as is provided by law. At present there is no facility for separation of white and colored prisoners in the women's department.

We found the several county offices to be in good condition with regard to administration, and commend the officers for their apparent efficiency. In this regard we desire to especially commend J. L. Dishong, sheriff, for his splendid system of expediting the criminal business which comes before the grand jury and the courts. His method and energies have added us materially and have made and make the court proceedings in the administration of the criminal law to cost the tax payers a minimum of expense. DeSoto county is one of the few counties in the state in which the clerk employs an expert accountant for his full time, to properly keep the financial accounts and to do the county auditing. Through this service the Board of County Commissioners are advised at all times concerning the numerous funds of the county.

We, the grand jurors, especially wish to thank Colonel John W. Berton for his assistance given us during our deliberations.

We have examined the books and records in the various county offices, and find that the different county officers have a neat and comprehensive system established in keeping the records of the county.

We wish to recommend that the county commissioners install an extra filing cabinet in the county commissioners' room.

ISAAC F. WADSWORTH, Foreman.

J. J. McCARN, Clerk.

## ARCADIA SPECIAL TAX SCHOOL DISTRICT

Votes Overwhelmingly in Favor of New Grammar School Building in East Arcadia, and School Dormitory.

The citizens of Arcadia and the Arcadia Special Tax School District have again demonstrated that they are first, last and all the time in favor of schools. A vote was taken yesterday for the purpose of determining whether or not \$35,000 worth of bonds should be sold for the purpose of erecting a grammar school building to cost \$20,000 in east Arcadia, a dormitory in the city of Arcadia to cost \$10,000, and for the purpose of completing the improvements so well begun at Venus and other improvements in the eastern section of this district.

The people manifested their desires in the matter with the following vote: Arcadia vote: 168 for grammar school, 8 against; 149 for dormitory, 25 against.

Venus vote: 10 for both propositions, none against.

### To Spend Christmas—

Mrs. Tom Lykes, of Tampa and Mrs. Carlyle Fish, of Chicago, arrived here this morning to spend the Christmas holidays with their father, Hon. T. B. King. Their hosts of friends are delighted to know they are in the city.

## SCHOOL OF TELEGRAPHY AND SHORTHAND FOR ARCADIA

Mr. W. G. Powell, Former Manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, of This City, Retires and Will Start a School in the Smith Building, January 1st. A Rare Opportunity for Young Men and Young Women of This City to Become Proficient in a Business of Almost Unlimited Demands.

Mr. W. G. Powell, manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company at Arcadia for the last three years, retires and will open a Commercial Telegraphy and Shorthand School in the Smith building, January 1.

Mr. Powell is a man of wide business experience, having been for many years law reporter before all the courts of the state, and later has

## BOND ELECTIONS CARRY IN LIMESTONE GARDNER

And Fort Green Springs Districts for the Purpose of Erecting High School Buildings. These, With the \$35,000 Issue Voted Last Saturday in the Arcadia District, Makes a Total of \$70,000. DeSoto County Now Has, or Will Have When These Are Completed, More Handsome School Buildings Than Any County in the South.

DeSoto county citizens have again demonstrated their progressiveness in all things educational. At the bond elections held last Saturday in the little cities of Gardner, Limestone and Fort Green Springs, the votes cast were overwhelmingly in favor of bonding the various districts for erecting high school buildings.

In Gardner the election was for a \$10,000 bond issue for the erection of a Junior High School building. The vote stood 17 for the measure and 8 against it.

At Limestone the election was called for an \$8,000 bond issue for a Junior High School building, and the vote stood 16 for and 3 against.

The two districts of Fort Green and Fort Green Springs voted on a consolidation of the two districts, and a bond issue for \$17,000 with which to erect a Senior High School building. The vote stood 17 for and 2 against.

### On Business—

Walter Graham, of Jacksonville, arrived here this morning and will spend some time in the city on business.

served in the capacity as manager of the Western Union Telegraph service at many of its important points throughout the state.

This will furnish a rare opportunity to acquire a practical knowledge of the Modern Indispensable Business Arts of Commercial Telegraphy and Shorthand under the supervision of a principal who has had actual experience for years in the work, therefore a course not to be had at the ordinary business college, and at such moderate terms as will be less than the railway fare and expenses to an out-of-the-state business school.

The demand for competent service in these great modern indispensable business arts can never be filled, and the demand is constantly increasing. The course consists of four months, and students may enter at any time.

Such an opportunity as this should appeal to many young men and young women of this vicinity, and we bespeak for Mr. Powell a big success from the very beginning.